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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/624,844 | 07/21/2003 | Kazutaka Kubota | F-7900 | 6530 |
| 28107 | 7590 | 07/13/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP 122 EAST 42ND STREET SUITE 4000 NEW YORK, NY 10168 | | | NGUYEN, KIM T | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3713 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/624,844

Applicant(s)

KUBOTA ET AL

Examiner

Kim Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address.--

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/24/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a) In claim 1, line 6, the claimed limitation “the progress” should be corrected to “a progress”.
 - b) In claim 1, line 14, claim 14, line 15, the claimed limitation “during progress” should be corrected to “during the progress”.
 - c) In claim 3, line 4; claim 8, lines 7 and 11; claim 11, lines 7 and 11-12, the claimed limitation “a disconnected circuit” should be corrected to “the disconnected circuit”.
 - d) In claim 4, line 6, the claimed limitation “game server devices” should be corrected to “the game server devices”.
 - e) In claim 4, lines 12-13, the claimed limitation “terminal devices” should be corrected to “the terminal devices”.
 - f) In claim 4, line 13; claim 12, line 10, the claimed limitation “players” should be corrected to “the players”.
 - g) In claim 4, line 14; claim 12, line 11, the claimed limitation “communication circuits” should be corrected to “the communication circuits”.

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- h) In claim 4, line 16; claim 8, line 8; claim 11, line 8, the claimed limitation “a game” should be corrected to “the game”.
- i) In claim 4, line 16; claim 12, line 13, the claimed limitation “the progress of a network game” should be corrected to “a progress of the network game”.
- j) In claim 4, line 17; claim 12, line 14; claim 13, line 16; and claim 14, line 16, the claimed limitation “a common game space” should be corrected to “the common game space”.
- k) In claim 4, line 24; claim 13, line 15, the claimed limitation “terminal devices during progress” should be corrected to “the terminal devices during the progress”.
- l) In claim 4, lines 38-39, the claimed limitation “a private circuit” should be corrected to “the private circuit”.
- m) In claim 5, lines 8-9, the claimed limitation “a game in a common game space” should be corrected to “the game in the common space game”.
- n) In claim 6, line 3; claim 8, line 4; claim 9, line 3; claim 11, line 4, the claimed limitation “a simulated” should be corrected to “the simulated”.
- o) In claim 6, line 6; claim 9, line 6, the claimed limitation “the same” should be corrected to “the tile”.
- p) In claim 12, lines 3-4, 9-10, and 21, the claimed limitation “terminal devices” should be corrected to “the terminal devices”.
- q) In claim 13, lines 4-5, the claimed limitation “the operation signals” should be corrected to “operation signals”.
- r) In claim 13, line 5, the claimed limitation “the game” should be corrected to “a game”.

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s) In claim 14, line 5, the claimed limitation “the progress of the game” should be corrected to “a progress of a game”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior arts of record do not disclose a game progress management device to which a prescribed number of terminal devices are connected through communication circuits so as to be capable of mutual communication of operation signals necessary for proceeding with a game; the progress of the network game that is conducted in a common game space is managed, and the network game is continued in simulated fashion if a fault occurs in the communication circuits; the game progress management device comprises abnormality monitoring means, simulated signal generating means, and simulated signal providing means; the abnormality monitoring means, simulated signal generating means, and simulated signal providing means perform the functions defined in independent claims.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-7915. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM ET.

The central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Nguyen', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kim Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3713

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Date: July 10, 2004